Calendar No. 179

98TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
No. 98–117

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT EXTENSION

MAY 16, 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DURENBERGER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1290]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, reports an original bill (S. 1290), to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year and recommends that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Safe Drinking Water Act was enacted in 1974 for the purpose of protecting the Nation's drinking water supplies. At the time of enactment, most attention focused on known contamination of surface waters. The law did, however, include some specific provisions for the regulation of one major potential source of groundwater contamination, namely the underground injection of wastes and other substances.

The bill reported by the Committee would reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act as now written for a one-year period at levels approximately equal to fiscal year 1982 actual expenditures, indexed for a 5 percent inflation rate. Those levels are as follows:

Section 1442(f) (research and technical assistance)	$22,000,000
Section 1443(a)(7) (State program grants)	32,000,000
Section 1443(b)(5) (underground injection control)	8,000,000

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

During the time which has passed since enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act it became increasingly apparent that groundwater is contaminated to a much greater degree than previously suspected. In a 1980 report prepared by the Library of Congress for the use of the Committee during its consideration of the Superfund legislation, 1,300 wells and well systems were identified as closed

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because of contamination by toxic chemicals. Rougly one-third of the wells in the San Joaquin Valley of California were reported to be contaminated by a pesticide, dibromochloropropane (DBCP), known to cause sterility in male workers at higher dose levels. In another study, the Environmental Protection Agency found 97 percent of the surveyed wells to be contaminated by an industrial solvent, TCE.

The Committee has not held hearings during this session on either the Safe Drinking Water Act or groundwater contamination. Preparation for such hearings, however, has begun and they are expected to be conducted during the summer. While it is unlikely that new authority for the protection of groundwater can be developed and reported this year, the Committee wished to preserve this option. Therefore, the authorization for the Safe Drinking Water Act includes an additional $15 million for new authority.

Hearings

No hearings have been held on this bill. The Committee intends to hold hearings later this year to explore the need for additional substantive amendments.

Rollcall Votes

No rollcall votes were taken during consideration of this bill. The bill was ordered reported on May 10, 1983, by unanimous voice vote.

Evaluation of Regulatory Impact

In compliance with section 11(b)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee has evaluted the regulatory impact of the reported bill. This bill authorizes no new regulatory authority, removes no regulatory authority, and creates no new regulatory implications.

Cost of Legislation

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires each report to contain a statement of the cost of the reported bill. That statement follows:

U.S. Congress,
Congressional Budget Office,
Washington, D.C., May 16, 1983.

Hon. Robert T. Stafford,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has prepared the attached revised cost estimate for a bill to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year.

Should the Committee so desire, we would be pleased to provide further details on this estimate.

Sincerely,

James Blum
(For Alice M. Rivlin, Director).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE—COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: Not yet assigned.

2. Bill title: A bill to extend the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, for one year.

3. Bill status: As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, May 10, 1983.

4. Bill purpose: This bill authorizes $77 million to be appropriated in fiscal year 1984, of which $22 million is for drinking water research, technical assistance, and training, $32 million is for 75 percent matching grants to states for public water system supervision, $8 million is for 75 percent matching grants to states for groundwater protection, and $15 million is for a new matching grant program for states to develop sole source aquifer groundwater protection plans. The matching share for the sole source aquifer grants is not specified in the bill.

The authorized level is $22 million greater than the $55 million appropriated to date for 1983, and $32 million greater than the President's 1984 request.

5. Estimated cost to the Federal Government:

	Millions
Authorization level:	
Fiscal year:	
1984	$77
1985	---
1986	---
1987	---
1988	---
Estimated outlays:	
Fiscal year:	
1984	56
1985	15
1986	6
1987	---
1988	---

The costs of this bill fall within budget function 300.

Basis of estimate: For purposes of this estimate, the entire amount authorized by the bill is assumed to be appropriated prior to the start of fiscal year 1984. Outlays are estimated based on information from the Environmental Protection Agency and historical spending patterns for this program.

6. Estimated cost to State and local governments: States would receive in grants an estimated $37 million in 1984, $12 million in 1985, and $6 million in 1986. In order to receive those grants, states would have to spend an estimated $18 million over the three-year period, assuming a 25 percent state share of all grants. State administrative costs are not expected to be substantial.

7. Estimate comparison: None.

8. Previous CBO estimate: On May 12, 1983, CBO prepared a cost estimate for this bill that incorrectly compared the authorization in the bill to the 1983 appropriations to date and the President's 1984 request including research and development. This estimate has been corrected to reflect the fact that research activities are not authorized by this bill.

9. Estimate prepared by: Anne E. Hoffman.

10. Estimate approved by:

C. G. NUCKOLS
(For James L. Blum,
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis).

Changes in Existing Law

In the opinion of the committee, it is necessary to dispense with the requirement of section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate in order to expedite the business of the Senate.

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